

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JUN 24 2005

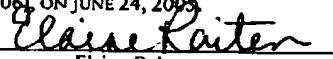
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): STEPHEN D. KUSLICH et al.	Examiner: WILLSE, David H.
Appln. No.: 10/627,589	Group Art Unit: 3732
Filing Date: July 25, 2003	
Title: LAPAROSCOPIC SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL METHOD	Docket No. 75028-307894

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING FACSIMILE
TRANSMITTED TO THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (FAX
NO. (703) 872-9306) ON JUNE 24, 2005.



Elaine Raiten

REPLY AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This Reply is responsive to the outstanding Office Action mailed February 24, 2005. A Request for Continued Examination, a petition for a one-month time extension and corresponding fees are submitted herewith. No additional fee is thought to be necessary. However, if any fee is required for entry of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account 06-0029 and is requested to notify us of the same. This Reply includes the following:

- **Amendments to the Claims** as reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.
- **Remarks** beginning on page 7 of this paper.